

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

,
BRIAN HALE

Plaintiff,

No. 3:21-cv-01219-HZ

OPINION & ORDER

v.

**CITY of PORTLAND and
STATE of OREGON**

Defendants.

HERNÁNDEZ, District Judge:

Pro se Plaintiff Brian Hale brings this action against the City of Portland and the State of Oregon. Defendants have not yet been served with process. Plaintiff moves to proceed *in forma pauperis* [5]. Because Plaintiff has minimal income and assets, the Court grants the motion. However, for the reasons explained below, the Court dismisses the Complaint [1] without prejudice.

STANDARDS

A complaint filed *in forma pauperis* may be dismissed at any time, including before service of process, if the court determines that:

(B) the action or appeal—

- (i) is frivolous or malicious;
- (ii) fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted; or
- (iii) seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief.

28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2); *see also Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 324 (1989) (*sua sponte* dismissals under section 1915 “spare prospective defendants the inconvenience and expense of answering” complaints which are “frivolous, malicious, or repetitive”); *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1126 n.7 (9th Cir. 2000) (section 1915(e) applies to all *in forma pauperis* complaints, not just those filed by inmates). A complaint is frivolous “where it lacks an arguable basis in law or in fact.” *Neitzke*, 490 U.S. at 325; *Jackson v. State of Ariz.*, 885 F.2d 639, 640 (9th Cir. 1989). A complaint fails to state a claim when it does not contain sufficient factual matter which, when accepted as true, gives rise to a plausible inference that defendants violated plaintiff’s constitutional rights. *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009); *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 554, 556–57 (2007). “Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678.

As the Ninth Circuit has instructed, however, courts must “continue to construe pro se filings liberally.” *Hebbe v. Pliler*, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th Cir. 2010). A pro se complaint ““must be held to less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers.”” *Id.* (quoting *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007) (per curiam)). A pro se litigant will be given leave to

amend his or her complaint unless it is clear that the deficiencies of the complaint cannot be cured by amendment. *Lopez*, 203 F.3d at 1130–31.

DISCUSSION

Plaintiff asserts his claim under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Plaintiff alleges that he has been a victim of fraud and discrimination. Compl., ECF 1. Plaintiff's claims arise from receiving a low credit score from three credit reporting agencies. He also alleges discrimination by a private car dealer when he attempted to finance the purchase of a new car. Plaintiff's complaint makes no allegations describing any actions by Defendants that caused Plaintiff harm or violated his rights.

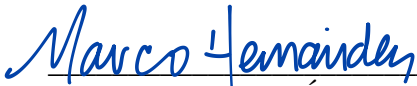
Because the Court is unable to discern a claim against the Defendants upon which relief can be granted, the Court dismisses the Complaint without prejudice and with leave to amend.

CONCLUSION

The Court GRANTS Plaintiff's application for leave to proceed IFP [5]. Plaintiff's Complaint [1] is dismissed with leave to amend. Plaintiff may file an amended complaint, curing deficiencies noted above, within 30 days of this Opinion & Order. The Clerk shall not issue a summons without direction from the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: September 29, 2021.


MARCO A. HERNÁNDEZ
United States District Judge